CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1407
17 June 1996

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1996 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, CAMEROON, CHILE, COLOMBIA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FINLAND, IRAQ, ISRAEL NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE, VIET NAM AND ZIMBABWE

We should like to place on record our countries' sincere appreciation for your efforts to find a solution to the urgent question of expansion of membership of the Conference on Disarmament and to set forth the commitments that Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe have decided to make in consideration of the anticipated decision of the Conference on Disarmament to admit the above States as members of the Conference.

The above-mentioned States therefore and hereby make the following solemn commitment legally binding upon each individually.

In an integral and indivisible connection with the anticipated decision of the Conference on Disarmament, and notwithstanding Rule 3 of the kules of Procedure, and without affecting the rights which they currently enjoy, each of the above-mentioned States, in the exercise of its national sovereignty, will not individually obstruct any action of the Conference pursuant to Rule 18.

This commitment shall cease to apply if there is a consensus decision in the Conference on Disarmament that the circumstance which had given rise to the situation requiring this solemn commitment no longer exists. In addition, for any State of the above-mentioned States not subject to comprehensive enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, on a date two years from the date of the decision, this commitment shall cease to apply with respect to such States as of that date.

In our new capacity as members of the Conference on Disarmament, please be assured, Mr. President, of our highest consideration.

Austria | Bangladesh | Belarus

Cameroon | Chile | Colombia

Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Finland | Iraq

Israel | Norway | New Zealand

Republic of Korea | Senegal | Slovakia

South Africa | Spain | Switzerland

Syria | Turkey | Ukraine

Vietnam | Zimbabwe